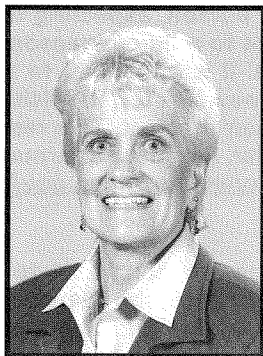


# Hammerstrom's

for the people  
in the 17th Senate District

# Hotline



State Senator  
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**CHANGE A LIGHT AND SAVE** The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) is encouraging customers to reduce their electric bills by switching to energy-efficient lighting. Compact fluorescent lightbulbs can save at least \$25 per bulb in energy costs over their lifetime; last up to ten times longer; use up to 75 percent less energy; can be used in most home fixtures; and offer warm, bright light. Using energy-efficient lightbulbs are also good for the environment as one bulb can prevent 500 pounds of greenhouse gases, equivalent to about 350 pounds of burned coal, from entering the atmosphere over the bulb's lifetime. According to the MPSC, if every household in Michigan were to switch one lightbulb to an energy-efficient model, the state would save around \$25 million in energy costs annually. For more information on energy-efficient lighting and to take the "Change a Light" pledge, visit [www.energystar.changealight](http://www.energystar.changealight).

**DID YOU KNOW?** Replacing 25 percent of your home's high-use lightbulbs with fluorescent bulbs can result in an estimated 50 percent or more in energy savings.

**NEW DISABILITIES SERVICES WEBSITE LAUNCHED** The Department of Labor and Economic Growth, together with the Department of Information Technology, has recently launched a website devoted to the interests and concerns of people with disabilities. Included in this new site is information about accessible housing and transportation, employment assistance and assistive technology. The website also provides links to specific programs and access to both state and federal disability laws. In addition to serving individuals with disabilities, the site also includes resources for family members of the disabled and those in the medical, vocational rehabilitation, education, social work and other human service professions. Those wishing to visit the website may do so by logging onto [www.michigan.gov/disabilityresources](http://www.michigan.gov/disabilityresources).

**STILL TIME TO REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOT** Michigan residents who would like to request an absentee ballot to be mailed to their home have until 2 p.m. Saturday, November 4 to submit a written request to their city or township clerk. Upon receiving a mailed ballot, voters must complete and return it to the clerk's office by 8 p.m. on Election Day. Absentee ballot applications are also available online at [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote). Registered voters can obtain absentee ballots if they are 60 or older, unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another person, expecting to be out of town on Election Day, in jail awaiting arraignment or trial, unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons or appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of their precinct of residence. It is important to note that residents who have registered to vote by mail or via a voter registration drive and have never voted in Michigan are not eligible to vote by absentee ballot in their first election. They must vote in person at their precinct. This restriction does not apply to overseas voters, voters who are handicapped or voters who are 60 or older. For more information in regard to voting by absentee ballot, please visit the Michigan Secretary of State's website at [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos), or contact your city or township clerk's office.

**SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER** As hunting season draws near, sportsmen are encouraged to donate \$1 to the Sportsmen Against Hunger Program when applying for a hunting license. Under Public Act 117 of 2005, the Department of Natural Resources will use the revenue generated to help cover the cost of gathering, processing and distributing wild game to people in need beginning January 1, 2007. Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger, a volunteer organization, has been providing donated venison and other game meat since 1991 to charitable organizations such as local food banks, soup kitchens and Salvation Army community centers. The new state program would offset processing costs and help feed more hungry families.